

The City of Bloomington Volunteer Network's

News from the Network

Connecting you to the volunteer community



October 9, 2008

www.bloomington.in.gov/volunteer

[past editions/printable format](#)

Greetings Volunteer Network Members:

Well, fall has just started and so of course we're already thinking about the holidays! Please note that we have a new system for collecting your holiday and Wish List needs this year online. This new collection system will allow us to gather not only your material needs for the Wish List, but also information about your special holiday programming and events. This is information that we begin receiving calls about in early November! We plan to collect all of your holiday information into a new publication that will be available online to help guide many of these eager holiday volunteers to your organizations. We are also pleased to report that the Holiday Wish List will again be published in the Herald-Times on the day after Thanksgiving.

~Bet & Lucy

The City of Bloomington Volunteer Network

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Wish List is Coming!



Believe it or not, it's time to start thinking about the holidays. We've included a link below and will be sending out an additional special email to all of our Volunteer Network members requesting your lists of material goods to be included in this year's annual Holiday Wish List. In addition to material goods, this year we will be asking you about volunteer opportunities and events that your organization will be hosting over the holiday time (Nov-Jan). So don't wait, start thinking now about what your organization would like included in this year's listings. **The deadline for submissions is October 24th. [Submit your holiday and Wish List needs now.](#)**

To be included in this listing you will need to have an active profile on the new Volunteer Network website. If you have not yet activated your profile, please contact us at 349-3433 or volunteer@bloomington.in.gov to find out how to become a member – and be included in the Holiday Wish List – now!

Be Involved Bloomington – Oct-Dec, 2008



Help recognize Be Involved Bloomington quarter this October through December by highlighting the campaign in your newsletter or website. Below is some copy that you can cut and paste into your own publications.

"Celebrate Be Involved Bloomington this October-December, 2008!"

During the months of October, November and December, the City of Bloomington will celebrate the involvement of its citizens with the final Be Bloomington theme of 2008 - Be Involved Bloomington!

Whether you are a current volunteer or are looking for other ways to connect to the community, the City of Bloomington Volunteer Network is your resource for volunteering in Bloomington.

Check out the volunteer opportunity listings online at www.bloomington.in.gov/volunteer and get familiar with the over 125 agencies and 360+ opportunities to volunteer throughout the community. Or call 349-3433 to find out

more about how the Volunteer Network can connect you to the community through volunteerism."
[Download the "Be Involved Bloomington" logo.](#)

Martin Luther King Day of Service Project Grants – *Deadline: December 12, 2008*



The City of Bloomington's Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Celebration Commission invites you to participate in "A Day On! Not A Day Off" on MLK Day, Monday, January 19, 2009, by planning a meaningful community service project.

The Commission will award over \$20,000 in grants to local organizations which develop community service projects for King Day. This is a wonderful opportunity to obtain funding for the materials and supplies you need to do those much-needed projects or to organize a creative approach to serving your clients or helping your clients to serve the community.

Complete or download the form online at www.bloomington.in.gov/mlk.

The deadline to submit an application for funding is Dec. 12, 2008.

Questions can be directed to Craig Brenner at 349-3471 or brennerc@bloomington.in.gov or Bet Savich at 349-3472 or savichb@bloomington.in.gov.

Bloomington Bicycle Club (BBC) grants available – *Deadline Nov. 3, 2008*

All Monroe county area non-profit organizations are invited to submit proposals to the Bloomington Bicycle Club that will promote bicycle use, safety, enjoyment and/or awareness. The program can be in development or already existing; requests should not exceed \$1500. Proposals must be received by Nov. 3 at 5 p.m. and will be announced in December. Questions and grant submissions should be directed to: bbcgrants@gmail.com. Grant application and guidelines can be found at: <http://bloomingtonbicycleclub.org/grant/>



The Bloomington Bicycle Club, a non-profit organization formed in 1976, is dedicated to promoting bicycling in all its diversity. Its activities have been so successful that it has chosen to share the wealth with other organizations!

Proposed projects should:

- encourage bicycling for recreation, competition, travel, or transportation
- educate the community about bicycling
- promote better public understanding and respect for the rights of bicyclists and the observance of traffic regulations or
- promote bicycle safety

"More to Give" - New Research by AARP on Volunteerism

More to Give, authored by three leading experts in American civic engagement, examines volunteerism among members of the Baby Boom and Silent Generations and offers a roadmap for increasing volunteerism through public and private initiatives, as well as renewed efforts by organizations like AARP. The report found that most older Americans (55%) believe they will leave the world in worse condition than it was. Fortunately, they have the potential to improve it through volunteering, with four in ten - approximately 45 million people - planning to increase their volunteer work in the next five years.

Key findings from *More to Give*:

- Over half (52%) of respondents said that the desire to "help people in need" was an extremely important motivation for volunteering. 40% are most interested in mentoring/tutoring young people, and 38% are most interested in helping older people live independently.
- 48% cited the desire to "stay healthy and active" as a motivation to volunteer.
- A majority of older adult respondents (53%) said they are unimpeded by health or caregiving for relatives in their home.
- Lack of time (70%) and the need to make money (54%) are perceived as barriers to volunteering.

- Most expressed an interest in volunteering without a regular schedule.
- Women are more likely to volunteer now and in the future. Among those surveyed, women are currently volunteering more than men (76% - 70%). Women are also more likely to increase their service in the next few years (44% - 38%), particularly boomer women (50%).
- Greater access to education and health care are two key motivators among respondents. Over half of boomers surveyed (55%) said that education awards they can earn and give to a child in exchange for significant levels of volunteer service would have a big or moderate impact on their participation in volunteer activities. Similarly, nearly half of boomer respondents (47%) cited access to group health insurance as another key incentive to volunteer.

[2008 by John Bridgeland, CEO of Civic Enterprises and former Director of the USA Freedom Corps; Robert D. Putnam, the author of *Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community*; and former U.S. Senator Harris Wofford, who served as Special Assistant to President Kennedy during the launch of the Peace Corps] Read more at: <http://www.pnnonline.org/article.php?sid=8422>

ORGANIZATION PROFILE

Hats Off to My Sister's Closet!

After the last Volunteer VIP meeting, I was talking to Sandy Keller, the founder and Director of My Sister's Closet. I've met several of her board members over the last couple of months. A few participated in VIP meetings; some attended our orientations to learn how to use our online matching software. I am impressed with the clarity and focus they have regarding their roles on the Board. Just listen to these volunteer position titles: Community Volunteer Coordinator, IU Volunteer Coordinator, Web Management. They know what they signed up for and they do it!

I applauded Sandy for having such an active Board of Directors and asked her to describe her approach. The following is extracted from an email she sent me, with her permission to include it in our newsletter.

~ Bet Savich



"Thank you so much for the kind words about My Sister's Closet when you mentioned the way the board was organized. That's such a nice thing to say when you think about all the amazing non-profit organizations we are associated with. I'll be honest, if all our agencies would continue to associate with each other in these meetings you make available, it's hard to imagine we wouldn't just all get better by virtue of the great association, isn't it?"

Regarding My Sister's Closet, I am aware my approach when recruiting board members is much more forward than most other organizations. I make it very clear that a lot will be asked. I have noticed all these women seem to like the idea of having a realm of authority and designation. I think for many it's a way for them to have some community identification that is more than what other organizations might offer and it gives them a sense of ownership. Maybe that's why they are willing to put in so much time?

They seem to take their jobs very seriously. It's true, I expect each one of them to report regularly on their progress and to take direction from the board as a whole on how to proceed from meeting to meeting. In the end, it really is a group effort with many parts all going in the same direction. Maybe they are so vitally committed because they seriously identify with our cause and the women we are serving?

Whatever it is, I am always taken back when I realize how much they continue to give, even when all of us are clearly tired. There is no way My Sister's Closet would have been resurrected without such amazing volunteers."

~ Sandy Keller, My Sister's Closet

CALENDAR

Oct 29-30

2008 BoardSource Leadership Forum

Nonprofit leaders are invited to join the discussion at the 2008 BoardSource Leadership Forum in Washington, D.C. Registration Fee. [Read More.](#)

Nov. 1

CareFest sponsored by Sherwood Oaks Christian Church

CareFest, sponsored by Sherwood Oaks Christian Church, unites hundreds of volunteers for one purpose - to make a difference by serving community assistance organizations and schools. Group volunteer projects are being solicited from nonprofit organizations who could utilize the assistance of CareFest volunteers. For more information about CareFest, contact Lyne Brown at lbrown@socc.org.

Dec. 12

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service Grant Applications Due

Deadline to submit application for funding to City's Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission. (Application available at www.bloomington.in.gov/mlk)

National Days of Service in 2008/09

October 19-25: Kids Care Week

November 22: National Family Volunteer Day

January 19, 2009 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

April 24-26, 2009 Global Youth Service Day

April 19-25, 2009 National Volunteer Week

May 2, 2009 Join Hands Day

To learn more about any of the National Days of Service visit the [National Days of Service Calendar](#).

WEEKLY VOLUNTEER UPDATE

Get your volunteer recruitment efforts featured in the Weekly Volunteer Update! Wish you could reach thousands of interested potential volunteers with one simple task? You can!

[Submit your volunteer recruitment requests now.](#)

[Read the current Weekly Volunteer Update...](#)

Next newsletter issue: Oct. 30

We want to hear from you! Send feedback or information to volunteer@bloomington.in.gov.

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